

**Patenting Ayurvedic Medicines**

† 3078. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have any plan to conserve Ayurvedic medicines and get them patented;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of progress made so far under this plan; and
- (d) if not, the reasons for Government's apathy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) to (d) The Central Council for Research in Ayurveda and Siddha, an autonomous organisation—fully funded by this Department has patented 3 drugs and developed processes for 15 drugs. The department is also establishing Traditional Knowledge Digital Library for Ayurveda to bring the knowledge about the medicinal use of plants already in the public domain in easily accessible and retrievable form to prevent patenting by others.

**Drug addiction among youths**

† 3079. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that after the drug addicted unemployed youths, a large number of child labourers suffering from starvation, are now becoming a'ddicted to petro products;
- (b) if so, the State-wise details of the percentage of youths addicted to drugs, those inhaling greese, petrol, nail polish and shaving lotion and children addicted to smoking in the country; and
- (c) the details of action being taken by Government to bring out these youths and children from the evil of addiction?

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† Originat notice of the Question was received in Hindi.